

complement the ready-to-assemble furniture and paint line already in stores.

All this, while balancing the busy lives of her husband and sons. I asked her about any tips or advice she might have to pass on to other busy working women. Debbie admitted that she, and other women who own their businesses, while they have chosen their lives, they can still feel overwhelmed at times. A frequent flier on planes at least two or three times a week, she admits she never sees the men sobbing into their coffee cups on an early morning flight. The guilt can be overwhelming, but she tries her best to stay involved in her children's lives, and in return, involve them in hers. It usually works, although she relates a time when she was on her cell phone while racing through an airport terminal, hearing her son complain about failing a test and asking her to help him




Debbie Travis stands behind her new line of home décor now available at Canadian Tire.

sort things out. I'll look at it tomorrow with you, she said. He responded with "where are you?" to which she replied "In L.A." He said "Oh, I thought you were upstairs". The real punch line? She had been gone for three days. Being involved with her sons' lives and witnessing the world they are growing up in, she thinks she has a much better relationship with her children than her parents had with her. One of the show's participants is a 22 year old who had to drop out of college in order to take a job to support his pregnant girlfriend, who gave birth during the filming of the show. Debbie said "he broke her heart", and after finding out that teenage pregnancies are at their all time high (speculation that all of the HIV education has led teens in long time relationships to abandon birth control for more traditional reasons), she felt it was important to tell his story and she hopes that a large part of her audience comes from the young people in their 20s who are struggling with life, career, and ultimately their own choices. Learning that not everything they do is perfect, as they have been led to believe by their parents, is a tough road for many young people, as they are told "It's not good enough" over and over until it is right, and until they find their passion. From a young

age, this is not a message the youth of this generation are used to hearing. "We've given them too much self-esteem. We tell them they're perfect," says Travis. This works to their detriment: Not everyone is suited for a university degree (a diploma so ubiquitous she equates it with a high school diploma for this era), and the trades are being abandoned in huge numbers by many who would be well suited and compensated for the work. She is passionate about bringing dignity and respect to the trades and acknowledging the passion that can be felt by finding the right fit. Travis is proud of her trade background. "To me, to see a stone mason, with those heavy hands, who is creating something, to me it's a sign of beauty."

So, what about the house? "It's still on the market. I hope people don't think because it was done for a show that it was done cheaply – it had to be done better." With features such as an infinity tub, marble kitchen counters, double fireplace in the basement, 12 foot ceilings, two laundry rooms, wood paneled den, multi-head shower, huge walk in closets and beautiful paint and décor throughout (naturally), this house is a real show home in a prestigious and quiet Oakville neighbourhood (located at 383 Morrison Road).

Not everyone will make it to the final episode, she is quick to point out, but the experience they all went through was very traumatic and life changing. In June, we will find out how this show changed them, and their lives, and whether they have found the passion they need to really build a new career, from the ground up. Certainly using Debbie Travis as a role model is the perfect place to start. 

Kathy Buckworth is a frequent contributor to The Good Life. Her books, The Secret Life of SuperMom, and SuperMom: A Celebration of All You Do, are available at bookstores everywhere. Visit her website at www.kathybuckworth.com

DEBBIE 101

PERSONAL MOTTO: Follow your passions.

LAST BOOK READ: The First Casualty, by Ben Elton (her favourite author)

LAST MOVIE SEEN: Walk the Line (which she loved)

TUNES: "The old stuff – Sam & Dave, Motown, but recently country music, after watching Walk the Line."

CAN'T MISS TV SHOW: Sopranos, Season 6

SOCCER TEAM: Manchester United (we won't hold that against her)

EXERCISE: Going on long hikes. She recently hiked 20 miles a day, for 8 days, across Viet Nam to raise money for colon cancer.

DOWNTIME: Catching a quick coffee or drink with friends, and reading.

FAVOURITE GADGET: Corkscrew (Travis admitted to being a bit of a technophobe, once trying to turn the telephone on with her portable phone!)

FAVOURITE WEBSITES: Google (she is looking for a house to purchase in Italy)

HER WEBSITES: canada.com/globaltv/
[globalshows/fromthegroundup,](http://globalshows/fromthegroundup.com)
debbietravis.com

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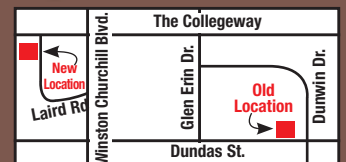
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